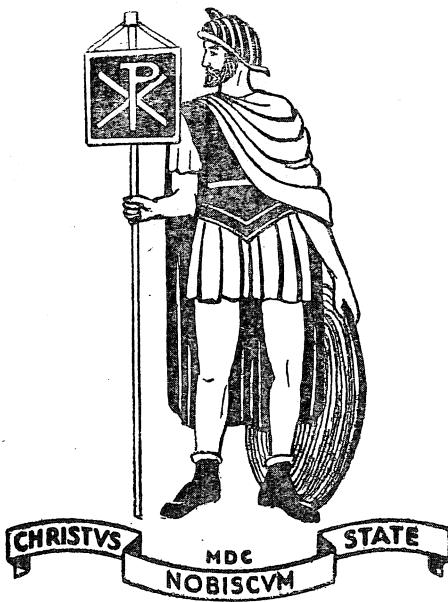


The
A l e x e s t e r G r a m m a r



S c h o o l R e c o r d

December, 1951

Alcester Grammar School Record

No. 100

DECEMBER, 1951.

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

Barbara Druller, Jill Kempster, Wendy Lovell, Kathleen Highman,
Finnemore i, Feast i, Davies ii.

EDITORIAL.

Readers will observe that with this issue the magazine reaches its century, and we feel that a few words about the earlier history of our RECORD will not be out of place on this occasion.

It was in July, 1915, that the first number of the magazine appeared. Edited by Mr. Wells, it had a larger page than the present one, was printed on a cream paper, ran to sixteen pages, and was priced sixpence. In this form and at this price it appeared at intervals until 1921, when rising costs caused the price to be increased to ninepence. After a break of two years, the editorship passed to the present editor, and in December, 1923, the RECORD was first published in its present form. Since then it has appeared regularly every term, but the price had once more to be increased by three-pence in 1945.

In his editorial in No. 1, Mr. Wells wrote: "With the growth of the school the number of our interests has increased: things happen, term by term, connected with our work or play, which are of decided interest to us, and it seemed a pity that there should not be some place where these events in school history might be recorded. Added to this, it has become evident that amongst us there are some who have no little ability in writing, and it seems right that their efforts should receive a fuller recognition, and be given a place where they may be read and appreciated by a greater number than hitherto. We hope also that the magazine may be a means of keeping old scholars who have left us, more closely in touch with the school." It has been with these three aims always in view that the RECORD has been regularly compiled. School events have been recorded as completely as possible, considerable space has been devoted to the literary efforts of boys and girls, and a strong link with Old Scholars has been forged by regular reports of the activities of the Guild and by the inclusion as frequently as possible of contributions from former scholars. Since those early days, many who have been scholars here have gone far afield from Alcester to various quarters of the globe, and copies of the RECORD have been sent to each of

the five continents. We have received from time to time messages of appreciation from old scholars in distant parts which make those who have been responsible for the production of this small magazine feel that it has performed a service of no small value.

And here we should like to take the opportunity of expressing our thanks to all those who, through the years, have helped to make the production of the RECORD possible: to members of the Staff, to members of the Magazine Committee, to all who have contributed to its pages, and last, but certainly not least, to those who have supported it financially by regularly buying a copy term by term. And it is interesting in this connection to note that we have on our books some few Old Scholars who have received a copy of every issue since the magazine first appeared in print.

We have used this occasion of the hundredth issue to recall a few facts about the magazine. It has been through the efforts of countless helpers in the past that we have been able to set ourselves a high standard. We look to present scholars to see to it that the magazines which appear during their school days maintain this standard.

OLD SCHOLARS' GUILD

President: G. P. Baylis.

Hon. Secretary: J. M. Stewart.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. M. Feast.

Summer Reunion, 1951

The Summer Reunion was held at the School on Saturday, July 21st, and was favoured by the weather, enabling the afternoon to be spent out of doors. After supper and a short business meeting, the Committee sprang a surprise by presenting a farce called "The Bathroom Door" in the Hall. The Committee members taking part put in weeks of hard preparation and were well rewarded by the reception they received.

This was Mr. Davison's first Reunion and Old Scholars were pleased to welcome the new headmaster and his wife to their midst, hoping that they will stay in Alcester for many years.

Christmas Reunion, 1951

The Christmas Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, December 15th, at 7.30 p.m. It has been found that the Committee cannot provide two meals from the annual subscription, while meeting the other expenses of running the Guild, and it has been regretfully decided that a small charge must be made, which will be collected during the meal. It is hoped that members will look at this from a practical point of view and do their best to help the Guild to continue its state of financial stability.

There are several vacancies on the Committee this year and propositions will be welcomed at the Business Meeting following supper.

To all Old Scholars who will be unable to be at the Reunion, the President and Committee send the best of wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

J.M.S.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

R. Arnold has been awarded the B.A. degree in Social Studies at Durham University.

On Thursday, July 26th, a tennis match was played between the Old Scholars and a School team. The Old Scholars (represented by R. Bunting and C. Biddle; E. Holder and Mrs. W. Heard; S. Goulbourne and S. Spencer; N. Smart and S. Woolley) lost by 5 sets to 16.

M. R. Perryman has gained a Bentley scholarship, tenable at the Birmingham School of Music.

W. A. Partridge has been on holiday from India during the past summer.

J. H. Gittus has obtained a B.Sc. degree of London University.

P. Drew is now in the R.A.F.

D. H. G. Mortimer has obtained his Second Mate's certificate, and is now a Third Officer with the Anglo Petroleum Company.

P. H. Rutter has been elected High Bailiff of Alcester for 1952, and becomes an *ex officio* governor of the school.

I. B. Howie recently competed in the reliability trials arranged by the "Daily Express," covering over 1,200 miles.

We regret an error in the announcement of a birth to Mrs. M. Holton in last term's magazine. We have inserted the correct announcement in the present issue.

SCHOOL REGISTER

VALETE

*Bennett, M. M. (VI), 1945-51.

Smith, J. E. (VA), 1946-51.

*Birch, J. A. (VI), 1944-51.

Sutor, B. A. (VA), 1946-51.

*Browne, D. F. N. (VI), 1943-51.

Waring, J. M. (VA), 1945-51.

*Bryan, B. A. (VI), 1943-51.

Watton, I. (VA), 1946-51.

*Burrows, M. (VI), 1944-51.

Alder, A. (VB), 1946-51.

*Hadwen, A. (VI), 1941-51.

Craddock, M. (VB), 1946-51.

*Highman, F. M. (VI), 1944-51.

Dimelow, J. (VB), 1946-51.

*Malpass, M. G. (VI), 1943-51.

Easthope, P. (VB), 1946-51.

*Perryman, M. R. (VI), 1943-51.

Edkins, J. S. (VB), 1946-51.

*Varney, R. F. (VI), 1943-51.

Goldby, J. (VB), 1946-51.

Barratt, T. F. (VA), 1946-51.

Horne, P. P. (VB), 1946-51.

Bott, M. K. (VA), 1946-51.

Jones, S. E. (VB), 1946-51.

Bull, A. E. (VA), 1946-51.

Jones, Y. N. (VB), 1946-51.

Craddock, E. M. (VA), 1946-51.

Lane, D. L. (VB), 1946-51.

Dayer-Smith, J. (VA), 1946-51.

Lawrance, R. (VB), 1946-51.

*Drew, P. G. (VA), 1947-51.

Oakes, L. J. (VB), 1946-51.

Gibson, P. E. (VA), 1946-51.

Paddock, M. J. (VB), 1944-51.

Griffin, S. R. (VA), 1946-51.

Peace, B. (VB), 1946-51.

Gwynne, E. M. (VA), 1944-51.

Perkins, P. J. (VB), 1946-51.

Hall, A. D. (VA), 1946-51.

Shelton, B. J. (VB), 1945-51.

Miller, A. R. (VA), 1948-51.

Clark, R. A. (IVA), 1946-51.

Parris, F. J. (VA), 1945-51.

Lewis, E. M. C. (IVA), 1948-51.

Rawbone, P. M. (VA), 1946-51.

Biddle, P. A. (IVB), 1947-51.

Rose, M. (VA), 1946-51.

Blaynee, G. A. (IVB), 1947-51.

Sharpe, J. M. (VA), 1946-51.

Kerry, J. (IVB), 1948-51.

Shore, R. A. (VA), 1946-51.

Pinfield, G. J. (IVB), 1947-51.

Smith, G. M. (VA), 1946-51.

Rook, P. M. (IVB), 1948-51.

*Prefect.

SALVETE

Batsford, P. C. (IA).	Hall, J. (IA).	Richards, G. B. (IA).
Baylis, J. P. (IB).	Hancox, J. C. (IA).	Ross, A. (IB).
Benfield, I. R. (IB).	Harris, P. R. (IA).	Rouse, M. J. (IA).
Betteridge, P. M. (IA).	Hartley, G. M. (IVA).	Sawyer, R. L. (IB).
Boswell, N. C. (IB).	Hartley, R. G. (IIA).	Smith, D. C. (IA).
Brazier, D. G. (IB).	Harvey, J. A. (IA).	Smith, P. A. (IA).
Bullock, J. M. (IA).	Hunt, A. T. (IB).	Smith, R. (IB).
Burford, J. D. (IA).	Jackson, F. Y. (IA).	Spencer, P. K. (IA).
Buskin, P. (IB).	Jordan, J. M. (IA).	Steele, T. T. E. (IB).
Chandler, P. E. (IA).	Keen, C. R. (IA).	Stone, T. H. (IA).
Cooke, J. T. (IB).	Lively, V. M. (IB).	Stowe, L. G. (IB).
Cowper, J. (IA).	Manning, J. (IA).	Sutton, J. C. (IB).
Croyden, L. A. (IB).	Mills, D. J. (IB).	Tatlow, D. J. (IA).
Davis, P. F. (IB).	Moss, A. E. (IB).	Taylor, A. (IB).
Dearden, E. A. (IVA).	Nixon, B. R. (IB).	Teel, G. A. (IB).
Dyke, B. J. (IB).	Norden, M. P. (IA).	Thomas, M. P. (IA).
Feast, P. J. (IB).	Parr, M. J. (IA).	Wesson, A. (IA).
Gardner, S. E. (IB).	Peach, G. H. (IB).	Whateley, P. C. E. (IB).
Gordon, J. M. (IA).	Pierpoint, P. M. (IB).	Williams, G. (IA).
Green, R. A. (IA)	Pinfield, M. A. (IB).	Young, M. C. (IA).
Grosvenor, A. (IA).		

There have been 303 pupils in attendance this term.

BIRTHS

On April 13th, 1950, to Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Holton (née Margaret Barker)—a daughter.

On December 31st, 1950, to Mr. and Mrs. G. Shephard (née Janet Hill)—a daughter.

On May 5th, to Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Savage (née Marguerite Taylor)—twin son and daughter.

On May 12th to Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Symes (née Christine Sanders)—a daughter.

On July 17th to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Purves (née Winifred Taylor)—a son.

On July 22nd to Mr. and Mrs. D. Bishop (née Gillian Garfield)—a son.

On September 18th to Mr. and Mrs. R. Collett (née Josephine Allen)—a daughter.

MARRIAGES

On February 24th, at Welford-on-Avon, Peter Brian Gibbs to Ruth Mary Johnson (scholar 1943-47).

On May 5th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Ronald Moore to Ruth E. Dixon (scholar 1940-45).

On July 3rd, at Beddington Park, Victor Evelyn Wood to Olwen May Davies (scholar 1938-43).

On July 4th, at Astwood Bank, Norman Howard Wheeler to Noreen Janet Nash (scholar 1939-45).

On July 28th, at Oxford, Stephen K. Walker (scholar 1928-40) to Betty Simpson.

On August 2nd, at Alcester, Eric G. Gray (scholar 1940-47) to Sheila Rymell (scholar 1941-46).

On August 4th, at Alcester, Anthony David Collins (scholar 1934-42) to Sheila M. Careless (scholar 1932-43).

MARRIAGES—Continued.

On August 18th, at Weethley, Douglas Norman Taylor to Dorothy Mary Morris (scholar 1941-47).

On August 15th, at Studley, Geoffrey Martin to Betty Pamela Feast (scholar 1938-47).

On September 8th, at Astwood Bank, Geoffrey Ernest Hill (scholar 1940-45) to Gwendoline Mildred Owen.

On September 15th, at Inkberrow, Harry William Betteridge to Winifred M. Ganderton (scholar 1940-45).

On October 2nd, at Stratford-on-Avon, David H. G. Mortimer (scholar 1942-45) to Frances Harrison (scholar 1939-44).

On October 16th, at Sydney, Australia, Richard Patrick Farquhar (scholar 1939-41) to Christine Rowe.

On October 30th, at Ipsley, L. J. C. Carter to Joan Elizabeth Vale (scholar 1939-44).

On November 3rd, at Rednal, Ian B. Howie (scholar 1940-45) to Bridget Field.

ONE MORNING

It really was a morning of embarrassing situations. I was staying with a friend for a summer week-end, and had decided to accompany her into the nearest town that morning. The town was five miles away, so, having been given a list of shopping by my friend's mother, we set out to catch the quarter to twelve bus. This, I think for the first time in the history of the bus service of that particular route, did not arrive, and so my friend and I were left standing in the brilliant sunshine for half an hour before the next bus came.

Consequently, we did not reach the town until twelve-thirty, when all the shops seemed to be either shut, or sold out of the things we wanted. However, we found a bakery open, and well stocked. Here my friend bought a "cut-loaf." She said that her family preferred these cut-loaves to the ordinary ones, and, as I was a guest, I could not very well say that I did not!

As we had some difficulty in getting all the things on our shopping list, we eventually arrived at the bus stop about half a minute late, and had the doubtful pleasure of seeing our bus disappearing round a corner. That meant that we had half an hour to wait for the next bus, so we decided to go and sit on a seat nearby. We sat down and began to chuckle over our bad management of the bus times, having been in time for a bus that did not run, and not having been in time for one that did.

Suddenly, coming from somewhere the other side of my friend, I saw some apples, some potatoes, a bottle of milk and two small cabbages roll across the ground. Still chuckling, I hurriedly looked round, and saw that an old man, who had been sitting on the other end of the seat, was now lying flat across it. My friend and I started up, both thinking that he had had a fit, and tried to get him into a sitting position again. I saw my friend tugging ineffectually at the old man's coat, and my chuckles, which had been shocked

into silence, threatened to break out again. However, I ran round to the back of the man, and, after several unsuccessful attempts (for he was very heavy), I managed to lift him into a sitting position. Luckily, he had not had a fit, and so could explain his unusual position while we collected his scattered goods. He thanked us for our assistance and said that he had tried to lean against the back of the seat, but, as this particular seat's back had been broken off and removed, he had fallen backwards.

Both my friend and I realised that it must have been a great shock for the unfortunate man, and the last thing we wished to do was to appear to be laughing at him, but this, coming on top of the other unusual happenings, was too much for our control. We walked away as hurriedly as we could so that he should not see how much we were laughing, and, still laughing, stood at the bus stop.

It was now about quarter past one, and we were very hungry. Probably, for this reason, we seemed unable to stop laughing—every time we tried, we looked at each other and burst out laughing again. Needless to say, the people who were now gathering at the bus stop were very curious about two girls laughing at nothing in particular, and perhaps thought we had escaped from the local asylum.

At last the bus came, and we were able to sit down again. In order to stop ourselves from laughing more, we tried to think about something else. By the time we reached our stop, we had managed to compose ourselves, at least outwardly.

When I got off the bus, I breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank goodness," I thought, "we have come to the end of this fateful morning." But I thought too soon. The sound of now quite uncontrollable laughter reached me. I looked round. My friend was gazing at that beautiful cut-loaf, whose slices were scattered all over the muddy pavement.

That, as you can well imagine, was the last straw.

JILL KEMPSTER (VI).

THAT UNFORTUNATE FLY

One afternoon, I was sitting quietly reading a book, when suddenly something attracted my attention. I put down my book and saw that my kitten, which had been fast asleep, was on all fours, and staring intently at a fly on a coat, which was hanging on the back of a chair. I sat perfectly still and watched.

Slowly and silently, the kitten crept nearer and nearer towards the chair, watching the fly very carefully all the way. She got closer and closer. Then, every muscle in her body tensed—she sprang!

Alas, for all her caution and care, the fly flew away to the window unharmed. She ran after it and jumped up onto the window-sill. Again she waited and then—she sprang again! Success at last! For all her pains and troubles, she was rewarded by having one small fly to eat!

SALLY MERRIS (IV A).

BONFIRE NIGHT WITH VB

School was over, PHILLIPS took the guy out of the shed. He fastened a "Penny for the guy" notice on the old coat with a PIN.

"FIELDS will be wet, better keep to the LANE," remarked WILCOX as he came towards him. They called for the rest of the boys and then set off. As they trudged along they kept a SHARPE look-out for dead branches in WOOD, FIELD and ditch.

"Here are some dry leaves" they said, TIPPING them RUSSELLING into the cart. In the village they saw the TAYLOR, HEMMING a coat. He was, by the way, a WEAVER as well. He was a GOOD MAN and promised a FEAST of potatoes on Bonfire Night.

When the time came, they went to the village green to let off their fireworks.

"Light this cannon," said EDWARDS.

"WATTON?" exclaimed another boy.

A loud bang shattered the still night.

When the fireworks were DUNN - ET was time for the feast. Potatoes were placed in the ashes, and were TURNERed over to bake both sides. MORTIMORE'S sister WIN SPEARED one with a fork and it was LOVELLY.

"What a PEACH of a DA - VIES has been!" everyone exclaimed as ALL ENded.

W. TREVOR (VB).

A DAY TO REMEMBER

As some of you now, no doubt, realise, it rained on November 5th. That, of course, was the day a gentleman named Guy Fawkes decided to try out one of his own fireworks, conveniently placed under the Houses of Parliament. In memory of his gallant attempt to "dissolve Parliament" we now let off fireworks. The spirits of some enthusiasts could not be dampened, not even by the rain, and some people tried staging a firework display indoors. With squibs and pin-wheels it is not entirely impossible, but have you ever tried letting off a rocket indoors?

First you carefully light it, whereupon it starts to fizz and suddenly, without any warning whatsoever, it streaks across the room, belching flame. With a quick flourish of its stick it rids the mantelpiece of all those ugly ornaments. Proceeding on its journey of destruction, it narrowly misses riddling the window of that cracked pane; it smashes one of the better ones instead. Everyone dashes outside, just in time to see the rocket burst, and cast a pretty ring of stars round a bewildered Police Constable. With that finale, they are convinced that the display was not so bad after all.

J. AULTON (III B).

ANTICIPATION AND REALISATION

A small boy was accompanying his mother as she went round the shops in the town. It was November 3rd, and the two were in quest of fireworks. The child was eager and cheerful as he saw the sparklers, jumping-jacks and bangers which his mother was putting in her basket. He pranced merrily along beside her all the way home to the quiet street where they lived.

That afternoon, he and his mother settled down to the task of making the guy. The arms and legs were made of the handles of two of his mother's brooms and the head was a piece of sacking, well-stuffed, with features painted on it. The child begged some old clothes from his father and the next-door neighbour and began to dress the bare "bones" of the guy. When he had done this he put an old hat on the head of the guy and stood back to survey his work.

The following day, the child got busy building a large bonfire of sticks, old branches which had been pruned from the trees, waste paper and card-board boxes. He heaped all these together until the pile was taller than he was, and then he went indoors and informed his parents that everything was ready for the next day.

That night the boy went to bed dreaming of the coming joys of Bonfire Night. Next morning, when he woke up he heard a strange, pattering sound. He thought miserably how damp his bonfire would be, and then decided that by evening the rain would have cleared and everything could go off as had been planned.

By dinner-time his hopes were fast diminishing. Drip! Drip! Drip! The rain poured steadily down all the afternoon. The roads were running with rivulets and the drains were full. The passers-by looked damp and unhappy as they hurried along, each striving to get out of the rain as quickly as possible.

The boy stood at the window and sighed, before moving over to the cupboard and getting out his toy-train. The room was dark because of the gloom outside, but the child was too small to reach the light-switch. He began to arrange the rails, getting them ranged round the floor before starting up his train. He played with it for some time until, wearying, and hearing his father come in, he again wandered to the window.

It was beginning to become genuinely dark, but nowhere did there seem to be any signs of life, any red glowings or ear-splitting bangs. The boy thought that, after all, the night of November 5th would be spent in the same way as any other night, and outside the Drip! Drip! Drip! of the rain as it fell could still be heard.

BARBARA DRULLER (VI).

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

One would hardly connect these words with an enjoyable summer holiday, but "swabbing decks" and "spud bashing" at seven o'clock in the morning certainly appealed to two Stratford Sea Rangers.

We arrived at Portsmouth Harbour on a glorious afternoon, and after reaching Gosport by ferry we were met by a motor launch which took us to the Training Ship *Foudroyant*, our home for the next seven days.

The present *Foudroyant*, owned by a Mr. Wheatly-Cobb, was first used as a training ship for boys at Falmouth in 1932. During the war the Admiralty took possession of the ship for nautical training for boys and after the war the training ceased. Later it was found that in her will, Mrs. Wheatly-Cobb had left the *Foudroyant* to the Nautical Research Society to carry on the training, which was resumed in May, 1949.

Life on board was organised to the last detail so that from 6.30 a.m. till "lights out" at 10 p.m. there was not a boring moment. Mornings and afternoons were devoted mainly to boatwork, that is, sailing and rowing. In the evenings after supper we attended lectures on the history of the *Foudroyant* and ships in general.

Some mornings and afternoons were spent in visiting Nelson's Flagship, H.M.S. *Victory*, Aircraft Carrier *Vengeance*, and the submarine base at Blockhouse.

During our stay we also saw from a distance the liner *Queen Elizabeth*, and anchored on the other side of the harbour was the Aircraft Carrier *Triumph*, which has recently been in the news.

We spent one very interesting day at sea on the frigate H.M.S. *Starling*, on which we learnt a variety of things, ranging from how Radar worked to the cleaning of the ship's brass.

On the Thursday evening our Captain Blake gave a talk on Submarines, one of which we were to visit the next morning. He told us of an amusing incident in which he had taken part. A film company was shooting scenes for the film "Morning Departure" on the submarine *Tip Top* which, incidentally, we had seen on the previous day. On one occasion the leading film star, John Mills, could not arrive in time so they needed a "stand-in." Captain Blake was chosen for the part. When the film was released, he told us that to his great disappointment only his back had been filmed and he was not front-page news after all.

In the afternoon of our last day a regatta was held, when there were nautical races between the port and starboard messes. After supper a ship's concert was held in which everyone took part. So, as one might say, the training ended on a dramatic note.

It was a wonderful holiday and one to be thoroughly recommended.

WENDY LOVELL (VB).

NOTES AND NEWS

The Autumn term opened on Wednesday, September 12th, and closes on Tuesday, December 18th.

* * * *

The head boy is Warburton, and the head girl Barbara Druller.

* * * *

The Prefects this term are:—(Boys): Warburton, Buckley, Bradley, Finnemore i, Gowers, Davies ii, Wesson, Fogg, Savage, Blake, Bolt i, Feast i, (Girls): Barbara Druller, Drusilla Mortimore, Pat Aspinwall, Jill Kempster, Pat Elmore, Hilary Young, Kathleen Highman, Gillian Holmes, Ann Palmer, Audrey Shuter, Elizabeth Walton, Colleen Wigington.

* * * *

Sides Captains are: *Brownies*—Finnemore i, Beryl Clarke (Games), Jill Kempster (Arts and Crafts); *Jackals*—Buckley, Pat Aspinwall (Games), Barbara Druller (Arts and Crafts); *Tomtits*—Warburton, Drusilla Mortimore (Games), Pat Elmore (Arts and Crafts).

The football captain is Buckley, the hockey captain Pat Aspinwall and the netball captain Kathleen Norton.

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Sports Day was held on Thursday, July 19th. A report of this function appears on another page.

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The Middle School tennis tournament was held on Monday, July 23rd, and the Senior tennis tournament on the following day.

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On Monday, July 23rd, some members of the Sixth visited Birmingham University at the invitation of the Students' Christian Union.

* * * *

In the last week of term cricket matches were played between Forms V and IV, and between Forms III and II.

* * * *

On Tuesday, July 24th, a tennis match was played between the Staff and the Sixth. The teams were: *Staff*—Mr. Davison and Miss Evans, Mr. Druller and Miss Webley, Mr. Ames and Miss Lavery, Mr. Hadwen and Miss Jolley, Mr. Petherbridge and Miss Morriss, Mr. Thornton and Miss Hewitt; *Sixth*—Buckley and Jennifer Birch, Hadwen and Frances Highman, Perryman and Diana Browne, Warburton and Margaret Bennett, Mary Burrows and Drusilla Mortimore, Barbara Bryan and Rosamund Varney, Pat Aspinwall and Barbara Druller. The Staff won by 37 sets to 12.

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In the final of the tennis Challenge Cup, played on Friday, July 27th, Pat Aspinwall beat Barbara Druller, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

* * * *

Tennis colours were presented to Pat Aspinwall, Barbara Druller, Rosamund Varney, and Margaret Woodfield.

* * * *

Cricket colours were presented to Buckley, Hadwen, Alder, Clark, and Savage.

* * * *

Rounders colours were presented to Pat Tipping, Dorothy Palmer, Ann Lidgey and Beryl Clarke.

* * * *

The picture presented each term for the neatest form room was won last term by IVA.

* * * *

During the summer holidays, workmen took possession of the two verandah classrooms formerly occupied by Forms IIA and IIB. The dividing wall was removed and the combined rooms adapted to make a Biology laboratory. Although the furniture necessary has not yet been installed, it has been used for all biology classes since the beginning of term.

* * * *

On Monday, September 24th, an interesting talk was given to Forms VI, V, and IV by Mr. P. Howes and Mr. P. Martinson, missionaries from Borneo and Accra, who were introduced by the Rev. Canon P. G. Kemp.

On Friday, September 21st, an interesting talk on schools in France was given to the Circle Français by Mme. Berquer.

* * * *

On Wednesday, October 17th, members of Form IVA, with Miss Young and Mr. Hadwen, visited the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, for a performance of "The Tempest."

* * * *

Another performance of the same play was seen by a party composed of members of Forms VI and IVB, with Miss Webley and Mr. Bell, on Wednesday, October 24th.

* * * *

On Wednesday, October 31st, three members of the Sixth attended a matinee performance at Stratford-on-Avon of Marlowe's "Tamburlaine."

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A few of us had the pleasure on Wednesday, October 10th, of meeting Mr. E. Wells, who paid a flying visit to A.G.S.

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We are sorry to record that Mr. Thornton has been absent from school through illness for the greater part of the present term.

* * * *

Our school lending library has benefited this term through the loan of a number of books from the Warwickshire County Library, and many more pupils have borrowed volumes during the past weeks.

* * * *

Workmen have been engaged during the first weeks of November in returfing worn portions of the school tennis courts. A new wire fencing has been erected around the court in front of the school.

* * * *

The heavy rains of early November put the football and hockey fields out of action, and the floods even invaded the boiler room, necessitating the use of pumps to clear away the water.

* * * *

The new school playing field has much improved since the end of last term. The long expanse of really green grass holds out the promise of an excellent playing area when it is taken into service.

* * * *

A school choir has been inaugurated this term. There are at present about forty members, and Mr. Holtom has kindly consented to conduct the practices during dinner hours on Wednesdays and Fridays.

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The seat at the piano at morning assembly vacated by Perryman at the end of last term has been occupied this term by Keyte i.

* * * *

Half term was taken at the week-end November 2nd to 5th.

* * * *

The sale of poppies in school for Earl Haig's Fund realised £5 3s. 7d.

BIRD WATCHING

Watching birds is one of my hobbies, and it can be a very instructive and interesting pastime. It is an outdoor interest, not confined to any particular season; even now in these cold and foggy, bleak autumn days one can watch the river banks for herons, moorhens, swans and the beautiful but elusive kingfisher, while a sunny day recalls the birds seen in spring and summer which have now departed to warmer shores. I am fond of watching blue-tits swinging on a coconut shell in our garden, for surely they are among the cleverest acrobats of our feathered friends.

I have an old book in my possession by Gilbert White, an eighteenth century naturalist, who was a one-time curate of Selborne in Hampshire and reputed to be the first real bird-watcher. His observations are wonderful in their detail, and his patience an example to the modern naturalist.

Our cat is a bird-watcher too—but that's another story!

D. CARELESS (III A).

ALARM CLOCKS

Alarm clocks serve the useful purpose of waking people up in the morning. But this does not ensure that these people will get up in plenty of time. Often they wake up, having heard the awful din made by the alarm clock, and switch the alarm clock off and then settle down for another "five minutes." If they are very annoyed, they probably will throw the clock across the room. After they have dozed for half-an-hour they realize that they have been a little longer than five minutes and get up in great haste, blaming the alarm clock for not waking them sufficiently.

This does not mean that an alarm clock is useless. Some people have sufficient will-power to jump out of bed immediately they hear it. Needless to say, these people are in the minority, so it seems that there should be a more drastic method of waking the others.

A device for tipping people out of bed at the required time would certainly wake them up, but this might not prove infallible, because they would probably scramble back into bed as soon as they had sufficiently recovered. A better device would be one which would pull all the bed-clothes off, whisking them right away so that they could not be pulled up again. The occupant of the bed would be so cold that he would soon get up. Even this would have its disadvantages in the heat wave, so perhaps these devices are no better than an alarm clock.

PAT WILLIAMS (VA).

COUNTRY BUMPKIN

In this modern age, little is thought about some of the crude customs carried on in the country.

People talk about being blooded at a hunt, but I believe that I can rightly say that I have been blooded at a chase.

One day, on the farm, there was a terrific noise of tractors and men shouting coming along the lane. We knew immediately that this was the "Hussey Gang," coming to pull the flax. We rushed out and were met with

"marnin', master; marnin', miss; fine day t'day, thou' it bee a bit misty o'er yon trees. Oh, well! we bee gettin' on to pull t' flax. Come on, jump in't land rover; we be soon down them there fields." So we got into the land-rover, bumping against tins, rolls of string or twine, and tins of sandwiches. We roared off, down the lane, through the gate, through "Collin's Mead," over ploughed "Ivy Close," over furrows and bumps, accompanied by "Can't say that I saw that there bump; whey up, hold tight—you there, how's gate there, Fred? Alright. Ah, 'ere we be." Out we tumbled, somewhat harassed, but nevertheless excited. Soon they started, accompanied by "Twine, where's t' twine? Who's got 'ammer? Come on, get on wi' it." With a lot of bustle and noise they started off, the bolt whipping along, the flax being pulled and seeds flying everywhere.

There were two tractors pulling, and they got on with pulling quickly. We stopped there all day stitching, and waiting expectantly, the field getting smaller, the light getting fainter, a scurrying here and there, some rabbits getting away.

Slowly, there was only a small patch to be pulled. One tractor stopped, all seized sticks. We crept up to the remaining flax, one tractor now pulling. Then: "There's one, get 'im Fred, your side, 'n now t'other; chase 'im be'ind t'stitch. Oh, ye ought t'got that 'un." Then suddenly, tractor horns going, whistling, shouts, running up and down the flax, sticks being thrown and "I's sure I it 'ee. Ah well." And then suddenly "I got 'ee, that be two. Shove 'im behin't stitch," and so the shouts and tin cans would carry on till one was hoarse. Slowly the flax disappeared, it was nearly dark. Then it was all finished, all was quiet.

Old Fred said, "Ah well, we 'ad a good day. 'Ere you two, 'ere's three rabbits. Jump in t'waggon; we'll soon get 'ee 'ome." We started up, over bumps, through mud, and cart tracks. Finally we got back to the farm, quiet now, except for "Old Barney," the barn owl. In we went, into the kitchen, tired, dusty, and very hungry, to be greeted "Come on you two. Rabbit pie."

PAT ELMORE (VI).

EPILOGUE

Do you realise that it's all over?—our Festival I mean. Haven't we all had a jolly time? Hasn't it all been such glorious fun? Six months ago, when the Festival started, we were told to roll up our shirt-sleeves and go out and enjoy ourselves. And when you think about it, you know it was all rather fun, wasn't it?

It all started last March, really. Much publicity was given in various newspapers to photographs of the South Bank, where our beautiful Festival was being built; all that could be seen was a vast expanse of mud, occasionally dotted with lorries—of course, stuck. Odd piles of bricks and wood lay about in heaps. There were no workmen to be seen, for naturally they were all on strike.

However, somehow out of the chaos came the South Bank Exhibition—our Festival. No one quite knew what we were celebrating: it was just vaguely referred to as "The Festival." A little later, after more publicity,

the Pleasure Gardens were opened. More photos appeared in the "Daily Howl" of lots of people on the big dipper trying to look as if they were enjoying themselves.

Most people seemed to enjoy the Pleasure Gardens more than the South Bank Exhibition. Many seemed to find the expanse of the South Bank rather large and tramping round a little "hard on the feet." Consequently we left it for Americans and other foreign visitors.

After London had started off our Festival with such a bang, every town and village up and down the country set about celebrating the Festival. Elaborate plans were put forward, from floodlighting the gas works (or some similar piece of modern architecture!) to organising water carnivals on the village pond. Everyone rushed round sponsoring Festival plays, Festival dog shows, Festival baby shows, Festival sports meetings, and so on. Also a very extensive search was carried out to find "Miss Festival of Britain." Once found, however, she was immediately packed off to America, probably to encourage Americans to see the rest of the Festival.

By this time, too, the "Daily Howl" had published more photos of the millionth visitor to the Festival, to be closely followed by the two millionth.

Up and down the country excitement was growing. Bazaars and exhibitions were being opened by Lords, Ladies, Members of Parliament and Lord Mayors. We all set out to have a wonderful time; the weather, however, was rather disappointing, and it managed to rain for most of the summer. This meant that garden fêtes and similar functions were rather a wash-out. But were we depressed? Not at all. We went to the garden fête in macintoshes rather than not at all. After all, weren't we supposed to be enjoying ourselves?

Then, one day our Festival ended. A military band played "Auld Lang Syne," which we all sang a little sadly. Here was an end to all our fun. We could still revel in the Pleasure Gardens, but as the leaves turned brown and as it began to rain harder than ever, at last they were closed also.

Now, after six months of trying hard to be merry and gay, we are settling down to ordinary ways again. The Festival site is bare, just waiting for blocks of Government Offices. Our politicians are still arguing about the money we have spent on having our fun. And what about the rest of us, what do we think? Personally, I just can't wait for 2051!

DRUSILLA MORTIMORE (VI).

A SAILOR'S YARN

We were nearly at Aden, on the Red Sea, when it happened. I was serving on the merchantman *Torquay*, bound for Malaya.

It was about 3.30 p.m. when the mate sent me down to the hold to sort out the cargo destined for Aden. Inside the hold there were big piles of boxes and crates, and wall-bars were provided to climb above them to read the labels. Sailors were sorting and checking these crates all over the hold.

I climbed up the wall-bars to check the labels, and, as I neared the top, I slipped and crashed headlong to the boards below, and darkness came over me.

I remembered no more, but, as I was told afterwards, one of the crew rushed madly out yelling to the mate that I was dead.

When we reached Aden I was still unconscious, and a negro doctor was called on board. He couldn't speak much English, but he said just two words: "Life extinct."

After the doctor had gone ashore, one of the crew was given the job of sewing me in sack-cloth ready to be lowered over the side. When he was up to my shoulders he must have stuck his needle in my arm. I jumped on to my feet in surprise, quite conscious. As for the other poor chap, he just looked at me goggle-eyed, screamed and fled off the ship. We never saw him again.

R. LANCASTER (IIIA).

TORTURE

A mighty power presses against my head, which is being crushed. A shrieking demon tears at my hair and vanishes into the darkness. I have lost the use of my limbs. Then, in an instant, my head is freed.

Peace reigns for a short while. The silence is broken by a terrible howling which comes from a mass of shadowy forms, creeping from the darkness. Again the mighty power descends, this time on my legs. They are crushed beneath it.

Suddenly, this force goes. Again silence reigns. Rays of light pierce the darkness. I can see a table, and a window. Out of the latter I can see a church and a busy street. The truth dawns upon me. I have just had four teeth out by gas!

D. SALE (IIA).

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

A few years ago, when Christmas was drawing near, I was getting very excited about what presents I was going to receive. Then Christmas Eve came and I went to bed wondering what was going to happen the next day.

Then the big day arrived. Among my presents I saw a box and on the lid was printed "UBILDA." I opened it and it was an engine. My father said he would put it together after our Christmas dinner.

The great moment soon arrived and out came the pieces of engine. Father soon had them put together. He wound it up and put it at one end of the room. "All set," said father, as he took his hand off the engine. We were all ready to see it go up the room, when—crash! It had run backwards and hit the wall. Father had put the clock-work engine the wrong way round.

R. BROADLEY (IIB).

ONE THOUSAND MILES CROSS-CONTINENT

At 6.30 a.m. on Monday, 30th July, we left Clapham Deep Shelter for Victoria, and amidst much bustle we caught the train for Newhaven. Here we received the first of our many packed meals, which we ate on the boat, the *Arromanches*. This was the boat that President Auriol crossed in. It was on the boat that the first real badge swapping was done, and the first cards sent home. The crossing grew rough as mid-Channel was reached and there were many cases of sea-sickness. After four hours on the water we arrived at Dieppe at 2 p.m. and many of us had our first glimpse of France. It was at Dieppe that we boarded the awful French train which was to be our "home" for the next thirty hours. The train passed just to the North of Paris and the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe could be plainly seen. Our first stop was at Noisy-le-sec. When we reached here, at five o'clock, we were all parched with thirst, having had nothing to drink for seven hours. So when the train stopped there was a rush for a water tap, heedless of whether it was drinking water or not. When we returned, we found that the engine had been changed and a restaurant car attached. "Pop" was being sold for eighty francs a small bottle (about one shilling and eightpence). Soon after drawing out, we were issued with our first French meal and, as this was our first meal since we left England, it was very welcome. That night we went to sleep in very uncomfortable positions, because the seats were too hard and the luggage racks too narrow. Just after we passed through Basle on the Swiss border we were all asleep.

I was woken up, next morning, by a dig in the ribs, just as we were travelling along the Lake of Zurich. The scenery had altogether changed overnight, the French plains having given way to the Swiss Alps. The French "garçons," as we called them, brought us our packed breakfasts and cups of tea at about half-past-seven. At Buchs the French waiters left us and the Austrians took over. The big French engine was taken off and an Austrian electric one was fixed on.

The heat was now becoming unbearable. Our next stop was at Innsbrück, where we had a short rest. We now reached the Austrian Tyrol and the scenery became really magnificent and cameras appeared from nowhere. The reception we received in Austria, indeed all along the route, was tremendous, and all the time, except when our dinner was brought round, was spent hanging out of the windows.

The engines were changed again at Salzburg (the home of the music festival). Just after we left the city the electric cable on the new engine broke, and we were stranded for a quarter of an hour in a scorching sun (so hot that it made quite a few boys ill). It was at our next stop, Gmunden, that we were treated with our first view of what we later took for granted, grown men in the national Austrian dress, with their little leather shorts, embroidered "braces" and Tyrolean hats. As we pulled out of Gmunden we saw the first of our really large Austrian lakes. And, believe me, it was worth coming all the way from England just to see the lake. The sun was blazing down out of a clear blue sky on numerous people bathing in a placid, perfectly blue lake with the gigantic snow-

capped mountains towering behind it. How I should have liked to jump into that lake! We finally arrived at Bad Ischl at half past seven, about an hour late, and said goodbye to our train for a fortnight. A small narrow gauge railway was immediately boarded for the site, and then at last we were at the Seventh World JAMBOREE.

J. A. W. SAVAGE (VI).

OLLA PODRIDA

We are informed by P.E. that she says things which are ambidexterous.

* * * *

A.H. writes that Silver was a tall fallow-faced man with a leg cut off at the thy.

* * * *

I looked for my ring, remarks B.C., in every nook and granny.

* * * *

J.K. has an eternal cold which hibernates in the summer.

* * * *

According to J.S., the Danes came to invade England in a large rowing-boat.

* * * *

In Germany, says P.E., inns are unappetizing.

* * * *

From an examination paper: the year 1066 is one which everybody remembers, for it was the year in which the battle of —— took place.

* * * *

R.W. asks with regard to the translation of an English sentence into French, "How do you 'was at school'?"

* * * *

It is said that monks live in a monstery.

* * * *

W.A.G. says that the little brook flew swiftly home.

THE WEATHER

Rain,
And rain again,
Dripping eaves,
Falling leaves.

Mist,
And fog,
Rising, falling,
Wild birds calling.

Flood,
And mud,
Streams o'erflowing,
West winds blowing.

Sneezing,
Freezing,
Autumn ending,
Winter pending.

JUDITH ROBERTS (IV A),

THE WANDERER

It was early Monday morning
 When Sam went out to play,
 He wasn't back at lunch time,
 Which was his usual way.

All afternoon and evening
 We waited, but in vain,
 We called and whistled down the street,
 But still he never came.

We all got rather worried.
 What could we do, or say?
 He'd never wandered off before
 When he'd been out to play.

Two days went by without a word;
 Our hopes were very low.
 Had he been hurt and needed help?
 How were we to know?

And then on Thursday evening
 Someone chanced to say
 That they had seen our Sammy
 Quite three miles away.

At last our prayers were answered
 And he is home to stay;
 He is happy and content
 And still goes out to play.

PAMELA DRAYCOTT (IIIA).

IN SOMERSET

Wells in Somerset is the centre of a group of ancient towns of which Glastonbury is probably the oldest. Glastonbury, which is six miles from Wells, was first inhabited about two hundred and fifty years before the birth of Christ, by short, dark men who came from the Continent. Nearby in the Mendip Hills are the caves made by ancient Britons in Wookey Hole and Cheddar.

Wells itself is well-known to almost everyone, and year by year tourists go to visit the many places of historic interest. A few of the most famous places are the Cathedral, with its West Front and Clock, the Bishop's Palace and the Museum.

The Cathedral was started in 1174. As one approaches from the town the West Front is reached first. It is composed of hundreds of figures, some of these representing well-known people. The colours of red and blue are in some parts clearly visible, even to-day.

The Clock is world-famous. It is set in the North Transept and was first mentioned in 1392. A seated figure, known locally as Jack Blandifer, strikes with its heels against bells. Two bells are sounded at the first quarter, four at the half-hour, and so on. The hour is struck by a hammer on a bell. At the same time, inside the Cathedral, knights may be seen revolving in opposite directions.

Nearby, at the Bishop's Palace, the chief attraction is the Moat, with its Drawbridge and its swans. The latter are a great delight to the visitors, owing to their habit of pulling a bell-rope when hungry. This trick was taught to an old swan more than a century ago.

The Museum is very interesting and is situated close to the Cathedral in a canonical house. In the Museum, there are many different collections. The Wookey Hole Cave Iron Age collection is of especial interest. There are also many folk relics and pottery from the caves in the Mendip Hills. In another room there are collections of minerals, coins and examples of local bird and animal life.

Around Wells are the Mendip Hills, Wookey Hole Cave, Glastonbury and Cheddar. Thus a lot of time is needed to explore this part of Somerset.

PAT ASPINWALL (VI).

SPORTS DAY, 1951

I pause awhile from my agrarian labours to review mentally my last term at school, and one day especially, July 19th—Sports day. It seems but yesterday when, full of zest after our variously successful attempts to satisfy the examiners, we sallied forth to transform the football field into a Wembley Stadium.

As usual, something suffered from our misguided application of force. Last year it was the sledge hammer. This year we broke the fork. When we were erecting the wire barrier, the pièce de resistance of the whole affair, we managed to persuade a friend of ours to fetch us some ice cream. Our wire was quite a success. I may say, however, that there were more ice-creams consumed under the A.G.S. heavens than the staff dreamed of. Or am I wrong?

Although the results of the day were dominated by the fact that the Jackals had won nearly all their sides matches, events were contested with no less than the usual vigour, and surprises resulted. The relay race was exceptionally well run, the final order being in doubt right up to the end. An innovation on the field was a lemonade stall, benignly presided over by Feast, who ladled out mugsfuls of a coloured liquid to thirsty contestants.

The craft work Exhibition was tastefully arranged by Miss Webley and her helpers, and as far as one inexperienced in sartorial and similar matters could judge, the standard of entries was at its usual high level. The small number of boys' entries was slightly offset by their quality, but there is no excuse for boys who could quite well contribute, but are too lazy.

Uniformly good work was seen in the Arts Exhibition, except in the posters section, where one felt that entries from the higher forms were sadly lacking. The high standard of the model theatres was notable; however, and the work of the middle school shows promise of even better things all round next year. I would warn those entering the VI this year that it is extremely bad policy to over-specialise, and urge them to take a greater interest in the history of art and its practical application.

I am sure you will bear with me if I insert here a little appreciation of the work done behind the scenes by Mrs. Rutter, who carried the responsibility of providing tea for many of our visitors with that cheerful efficiency which is her characteristic. She has also provided moral support to many of us in the Sixth, including myself, and the sound of her typewriter next door was, and I am sure will continue to be, a welcome one.

SPORTS DAY RESULTS

(B—Brownies, J—Jackals, T—Tomtits)

The results were as follows:—

OVER FIFTEEN

BOYS

100 yards—1, Drew (J); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Wesson (B); 4, Alder (B). (Time 12.2 secs.).
 220 yards—1, Hadwen (T); 2, Fogg (B); 3, Drew (J); 4, Wright (J). (Time, 27.2 secs.).
 440 yards—1, Drew (J); 2, Fogg (B); 3, Savage (J); 4, Hadwen (T). (Time, 61.6 secs.).
 Half-mile—1, Paddock (B); 2, Horne (J); 3, Davies i (T); 4, Buckley (J). (Time 2 mins. 24.7 secs.).

Hurdles—1, Drew (J); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Perryman (T). (Time, 14.4 secs.).

Obstacle—1, Buckley (J); 2, Wesson (B); 3, Savage (J); 4, Clark (T).

Slow Bicycle—1, Perryman (T); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Feast (J); 4, Fogg (B).

High Jump—1, Drew (J); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Savage (J); 4, Edkins (B). (Height 5 ft. 1 in.).
 Cross-Country—1, Sharpe i (T); 2, Davies i (T); 3, Shelton i (T); 4, Horne (J). (Time, 28 mins. 57 secs.).

The Mile—1, Horne (J); 2, Paddock (B); 3, Savage (J); 4, Fogg (B). (Time 5 mins. 25 secs.).

Long Jump—1, Drew (J); 2, Hadwen (T); 3, Fogg (B); 4, Savage (J). (Distance 17 ft. 11 ins.).

Throwing the Cricket Ball—1, Drew (J); 2, Alder (B); 3, Finnemore i (B); 4, Buckley (J). (Distance, 79 yards 10 ins.).

GIRLS

100 yards—1, P. Tipping (B); 2, J. Goldby (J); 3, S. Jones (T); 4, R. Varney (B). (Time 13.3 secs.).

220 yards—1, P. Tipping (B); 2, S. Jones (T); 3, J. Goldby (J); 4, F. Highman (J). (Time, 31.6 secs.).

Hurdles—1, P. Tipping (B); 2, D. Mortimore (T); 3, B. Bryan (B); 4, J. Goldby (J). (Time 16.9 secs.).

High Jump—1, B. Clarke (B); 2, J. Birch (J); 3, D. Mortimore (T) and M. Taylor (T). (Height 4 ft.).

Throwing the Rounders Ball—1, W. Lovell (J); 2, G. Rawlins (T); 3, M. Bott (J). (Distance, 52 yards).

Hop, Step and Jump—1, B. Clarke (B) and C. Wigington (J); 3, J. Dayer-Smith (T); 4, M. Craddock (T). (Distance, 29 ft. 7 ins.).

Obstacle—1, B. Clarke (B); 2, P. Tipping (B); 3, D. Palmer (J); 4, M. Craddock (T).

THIRTEEN—FIFTEEN

BOYS

100 yards—1, Peace ii (T); 2, Miller ii (B); 3, Goodman (B); 4, Allen (T). (Time 12.2 secs.).

220 yards—1, Miller ii (B); 2, Peace ii (T); 3, Allen (T); 4, Goodman (B). (Time 28.3 secs.).

Half-Mile—1, Miller ii (B); 2, Weaver (B); 3, Allen (T); 4, Brazier (T). (Time 2 mins. 45.4 secs.).

Slow Bicycle—1, Shakles (T); 2, Cleeton (T); 3, Weaver (B); 4, Shelton ii (J).

Obstacle—1, Miller ii (B); 2, Gillett (J); 3, Shelton ii (J); 4, Cottrill (T).

Hurdles—1, Miller ii (B); 2, Peace ii (T); 3, Trout (J); 4, Goodman (B). (Time, 14.9 secs.).

High Jump—1, Goodman (B); 2, Francis (T); 3, Cottrill (T). (Height 4 ft. 2½ ins.).

Long Jump—1, Gillett (J); 2, Peace ii (T); 3, Miller ii (B); 4, Gould (J). (Distance, 14 ft. 2 ins.).

Cross Country—1, Allen (T); 2, Miller ii (B); 3, Gould (J); 4, Goodman (B). (Time, 17 mins. 2 secs.).

Throwing the Cricket Ball—1, Shakles (T); 2, Miller ii (B); 3, Cottrill (T); 4, Weaver (B).

(Distance, 68 yards 2½ ft.).

GIRLS

100 yards—1, K. Norton (J); 2, H. Smith (B); 3, S. Salmons (B); 4, P. O'Nions (J). (Time, 12.4 secs.).

160 yards—1, K. Norton (J); 2, S. Salmons (B); 3, H. Smith (B); 4, J. Rawbone (J). (Time, 21.7 secs.).

Obstacle—1, K. Norton (J); 2, S. Salmons (B); 3, S. George (B); 4, K. Highman (J).

High Jump—1, M. Salmons (B); 2, S. George (B) and P. O'Nions (J); 4, J. Rawbone (J). (Height, 4 ft. 4 ins.)

Throwing the Rounders Ball—1, E. Lewis (J); 2, P. Rook (T); 3, S. George (B). (Distance, 52 yds. 1 ft.).

Hop, Step and Jump—1, M. Salmons (B); 2, S. George (B); 3, J. Rawbone (J); 4, E. Mills (T). (Distance, 28 ft. 8 ins.).

Hurdles—1, K. Norton (J); 2, S. Salmons (B); 3, M. Salmons (B); 4, S. Winspear (J).

UNDER THIRTEEN

Boys

100 yards—1, Whittaker (B); 2, Grummett (T); 3, Finnemore ii (B); 4, Walker (B). (Time, 13 secs.).

220 yards—1, Whittaker (B); 2, Walker (B); 3, Grummett (T); 4, Finnemore ii (B). (Time, 31.2 secs.).

Obstacle—1, Whittaker (B); 2, Walker (B); 3, Hawthorne (B); 4, Parker (T).

Egg and Spoon—1, Whittaker (B); 2, Ludlow (T); 3, Hawthorne (B); 4, Finnemore ii (B).

Sack—1, Thornton (J); 2, Finnemore ii (B); 3, Grummett (T); 4, Walker (B).

Three-legged—1, Milward and Whittaker (B); 2, Duxbury and Ludlow (T); 3, Jones ii and Thornton (J); 4, Parker and Ward (T).

High Jump—1, Whittaker (B); 2, Seeney (T); 3, Hawthorne (B); 4, Hodson (J). (Height, 4 ft. 1½ ins.).

Long Jump—1, Whittaker (B); 2, Grummett (T); 3, Hawthorne (B); 4, Seeney (T). (Distance, 13 ft. 9½ ins.).

GIRLS

75 yards—1, P. Harris (J); 2, H. Horton (B); 3, J. Dixon (B); 4, A. Davis (T). (Time, 10.2 secs.).

High Jump—1, N. Goldby (J); 2, H. Horton (B); 3, J. Dixon (B) and P. Harris (J). (Height, 3 ft. 10 ins.).

Skipping—1, N. Goldby (J); 2, J. Dixon (B); 3, P. Harris (J); 4, H. Horton (B).

Obstacle—1, H. Horton (B); 2, J. Burden (J); 3, P. Fowler (B); 4, A. Davis (T).

Hop, Step and Jump—1, N. Goldby (J); 2, B. Jones (J); 3, A. Compson (J); 4, J. Burden (J). (Distance 25 ft. 11 ins.).

Throwing the Rounders Ball—1, N. Goldby (J); 2, G. Maycock (T); 3, P. Harris (J). (Distance, 41 yds. 10 ins.).

OTHER EVENTS

Tug of War (Boys)—1, Brownies, 2, Jackals.

Relay (Boys)—1, Brownies; 2, Tomtits; 3, Jackals.

Relay (Girls, 13-15)—1, Brownies; 2, Jackals; 3, Tomtits.

Relay (Girls over 15)—1, Brownies; 2, Tomtits; 3, Jackals.

The following presentations were made:—

Victor Ludorum Cup—Drew (37 points).

Victoria Ludorum Cup—Pat Tipping (21 points).

Junior Victoria Ludorum Cup—Kathleen Norton (22 points).

Bronze Medals—Paddock, Fogg, Savage, Davies i, Goodman, Grummett, Sheila George, Margaret Salmons, Susan Salmons, Hilda Horton, Pauline Harris.

Silver Medals—Hadwen, Drew, Sharpe i, Horne, Peace ii, Miller ii, Allen, Whittaker, Beryl Clarke, Pat Tipping, Kathleen Norton, Norma Goldby.

Cross Country Cup—Tomtits.

Sports Shield—Jackals (569 points). (Brownies scored 455 points and Tomtits 330 points).

ARTS AND CRAFTS COMPETITIONS

The following awards were made—

Bronze Medals: Jennifer Birch, Judith Davis, Pat Hall, Frances Highman, Mortimore, Ann Palmer, Pat Palmer, Kathleen Richards, Pamela Rook, Russell, Susan Salmons, Ann Swinglehurst.

Silver Medals: Valerie Baseley, Jill Bunting, Mary Bunting, Mary Burrows, Drew, Drusilla Mortimore, Beryl Pope.

"Edith Deans" Trophy: Drusilla Mortimore.

Arts and Crafts Shield: Jackals.

M. R. PERRYMAN.

IV.A'S VISITOR

In the bottom of the desk something stirred.
Whatever could it be that she had heard?
A mouse? "Of course not," they said with a grin,
"How do you think the poor creature got in?"

To our morning lessons we all then went
And so the rest of our morning was spent.
Of our visitor nothing more was then said:
We all concluded our wee mouse had fled.

But we thought we would have another look,
And, peeping out from under a book,
We could see a mouse's long thin tail,
And someone let out an awful wail.

We moved the books and the mouse jumped out
And everyone let out another great shout.
We looked where we thought the mouse could have been,
But our most welcome visitor no more was seen!

JILL SMITH and ROSEMARY SKINNER (IV.A).

GYM LESSON

One, two, three, four,
Here we are at the door.
Here we wait to start our Gym,
So we may have figures slim.

Head up, shoulders back,
Good deportment's what we lack.
Now we are upon the bars,
Hanging there like little stars.

Up ropes, over the horse;
All is easy; no force.
Somersaults, handstands, headstands too,
All this is only half we do.

Screws, turns, hops, jumps,
Many falls and many bumps.
Up we bounce and on we go,
Jumping high and jumping low.

At last our lesson's at an end.
Back to our rooms our ways we wend;
Having shown our lack of skill,
Back to lessons with a will.

PATRICIA WELLUM (IV.B).

THE FLIGHT OF THE SWALLOW

The days are getting very short, which is a sign that winter is drawing near, and the morning air has a nip that chills the little swallow and tells him it is time to get away from this dreary place.

At last the urge gets too great for him and he is forced to fly. After he has been flying for some time he suddenly comes across a group of swallows on a telegraph wire; these he joins and they resume the journey together.

Some time later the land is left behind and the dreary sea stretches on all sides as far as the eye can see. But after days of flying land is again seen and the swallows settle, for this is the land that they will stay in until the same urge forces them to fly back to the land they left so far behind them.

N. PINFIELD (IIA).

THAT BANG !!

Once, and only once, every term, it happens. I'm like a criminal trying to get away from the truth.

Clad in shorts and blouse, I walk into the Gym. and sit on a form, my heart sinking right to the bottom of my stomach. The first girl climbs onto the weighing machine. She is tall and slender and when she steps on it hardly squeaks. I shudder; it's my turn next.

Slowly I rise, cross my fingers and shut my eyes, as I climb on to the machine. Then, Bang!! There is a loud "Oh!!" from the rest of the class, and then I sigh with relief. It's over for another term. I can laugh again.

MAUREEN BRYAN (IVA).

FLOWERS IN THE WOODS

There are bluebells in the woods,
Bluebells for us all;
There are bluebells in the woods,
Straight and tall.

I love the little primrose,
With colour very pale.
I love the little primrose
So delicate and frail.

I also like the cowslip,
He always looks so strong;
I also like the cowslip,
He's bright the whole day long.

I like all flowers in the woods,
Whether dark or pale;
I like all flowers in the woods,
Whether strong or frail.

ROSALIND SAWYER (IB).

THE OLD TRAMP

One day as I was walking down Sernal Lane with my dog, I saw an old tramp sitting on the wayside, smoking a pipe. I did not like the look of this tramp, so I walked past him as quickly as I could, hoping he would not notice me.

But I was not lucky, for a few moments later he called me and asked me how much money I wanted for my dog. I told him that I did not want to sell her, and I think this annoyed him. Then he said: "Look at that poor rabbit trying to get through that hole in the hedge; he's got caught." I said rather thoughtlessly "I'll go and help it out. Will you look after my dog for a while?" This seemed to please him. I at once realized that he was lying about the rabbit, and he knew I would ask him to look after my dog, so that he could sneak off with her. I then said "Look, he's got out of the hedge, so I need not go." He was very angry and did a certain amount of grumbling, and got up and went tramping on his way.

ROSALIE BOLT (IIA).

MY NEW SCHOOL

Teacher said we must not be late,
So I catch the bus at half-past eight,
I arrive just in time for the bell.
And so the day starts very well.

We start our lessons three,
And then it's time for break,
For fifteen minutes we are free,
To drink our milk and eat our cake.

Then more lessons once again,
And with a sigh I lift my pen,
There is English, French and History,
But French is the one that interests me.

For thirty minutes we oblige,
To put away the fare,
Before we are allowed to rise,
For games of rush and tear.

The bell recalls us once again,
And in our lines we stand,
Ready for Maths. and Physics to take the strain,
Till last period comes and then it's grand.

Hark, there is the bell and it's home for me,
Where mother's waiting with my tea,
And afterwards we will sit and talk,
Or may be we'll go for a little walk.

PHILLIPA WHATELEY (IB).

CAROL SINGERS

Every year as the festive season of Christmas draws near, the peace and serenity of the neighbourhood is broken by the vocal renderings of a few spotty youths. The musicians, after marching up to the front door, commence to give us their versions of what are apparently traditional English carols.

They do not, however, allow us to enjoy the sweet music for very long, for after some six lines of "Good King Wenceslas" they rap vigorously on the door. When you sigh and put your nose round the door, telling them to be off for the third time that night, they shuffle reluctantly gatewards with many grumblings and mutterings: "Huh, mingy old —; might 'ave given us something."

These, I am sorry to say, are typical carol singers. So, you budding larks, who are planning to go carol singing this year, sing, recalling the faith for which you are singing, and not for personal gain, and give pleasure to yourselves and your listeners.

BERYL POPE (IIIA).

ATTEMPTING TO SKATE

Having applauded the last of the couples who had been dancing on skates in the Ice Review, I decided to attempt to skate.

The rink was now open to all, so I hired some skates from the attendant. I sat down and strapped on the boots to which the skates were secured.

I stood up and very unsteadily walked on to the rink. From what I had seen previously, ice-skating looked as easy as A.B.C. When you step onto the ice you think very differently about the matter. After a few times going round the rink holding onto the bar, I ventured into the centre. I was skating quite slowly, but surely, when I heard a "whizz" behind me. I looked round and at the same moment, a boy who was an expert at the sport, came flying past.

In my astonishment and shock I was put off my balance and before I knew what had happened, I was lying flat out on the ice.

I rose slowly and very painfully and made my way to the side of the rink. There I sat down and thought rather sorrowfully about my first time attempting to skate.

SHEILA WINSPEAR (IVA).

MATHS.

Learning maths is quite a game,
Driving most of us insane;
Theorems that are strange in name,
Teachers seek to teach, in vain.

Every day for half an hour,
Masters have us in their power.
In Geometry they make us weary,
Teaching us Pythagoras' theory.

M. WHITTAKER (IIIb).

BONFIRE NIGHT

November the 5th was a very wet night,
 But in spite of this our fire did light,
 And the wood we gathered went up in smoke,
 When my friends and I gave the fire a poke.

The fireworks let off were pretty and bright,
 But the bangers gave us an awful fright,
 And the Catherine wheels went round very fast;
 Of course the rockets we left until last.

By then the fire was burnt very low,
 And my mother said inside I must go,
 Good night to my friends I happily said,
 And in I went and straight up to bed.

JEAN EBBORN (IVB).

OXFORD EXAMINATIONS FOR GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

Beginning in July last, the School Certificate examinations were replaced by examinations for the General Certificate of Education. In these examinations candidates may take papers in subjects at ordinary, ordinary starred or advanced levels. A pass at ordinary level roughly corresponds to the former School Certificate credit, a pass at ordinary starred level to a pass at Higher School Certificate subsidiary, and a pass at Advanced level to a pass in Higher School Certificate main subject. Every candidate who obtains a pass in at least one subject is awarded a certificate. In publishing results the examiners no longer indicate whether candidates have obtained distinction, credit, etc., but merely state whether they have passed or failed in each subject taken.—

The following pupils obtained certificates:—

VIth Form (2nd and 3rd year)

A—Advanced level. O—Ordinary level.

J. A. Birch, *English (A), History (A), French (O)*; D. F. N. Browne, *English (A), History (A), French (O)*; B. A. Bryan, *English (A), History (A), French (O)*; C. E. Buckley, *Chemistry (A), Biology (A), Physics (O)*; M. Burrows, *English (A), History (A)*; A. Hadwen, *Pure Mathematics (A), Physics (A), Chemistry (A)*; F. M. Highman, *English (A), French (A)*; M. R. Perryman, *Pure Mathematics (A), Physics (A), Chemistry (A), French (O)*; R. F. Varney, *English (A), History (A), French (O)*; R. C. Warburton, *Biology (A), Chemistry (O)*.

VIth Form (1st year)

All Ordinary level.

P. M. E. Aspinwall, *English Language, Latin, Geography, Mathematics*; M. M. Bennett, *English Language, English Literature (starred paper), Latin, French, History (starred paper), Geography, Mathematics*; B. J. Druller, *English Language, Latin, Geography, Mathematics*; E. C. Finnemore, *Geography*; M. J. Kempster, *English Language, Latin, Geography, Mathematics*.

Upper Fifth

All Ordinary level

T. F. Barratt, *History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; M. K. Bott, *English Language, French, History, Mathematics, Domestic Subjects*; E. A. Bull, *English Language, French, History, Geography, Mathematics*; E. M. Craddock, *English Language, English Literature, French, German, History, Geography, Mathematics, Biology*; M. Craddock, *English Literature*; J. G. Dayer-Smith, *English Language, Latin, French, History, Geography, Mathematics, Domestic Subjects*; P. G. Drew, *History, Geography, Art, Mathematics, Chemistry*; P. M. Easthope, *English Literature*; J. S. Edkins, *Biology*; P. M. Elmore, *English Language, English Literature, French, History, Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology*; M. E. Fogg, *English Language, English Literature, History, Geography*; P. E. Gibson, *English Language, French, History, Mathematics*; S. R. Griffin, *English Language, History*; A. D. Hall, *English Language, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; D. L. Lane, *English Language*; A. R. Miller, *French, History, Geography, Mathematics*; F. J. Parriss, *English Language, History, Art*; B. Peace, *English Literature, Domestic Subjects*; P. J. Perkins, *English Language, Geography*; P. M. Rawbone, *English Language, English Literature*; M. Rose, *English Language, Latin, French, History, Mathematics, Biology*; J. A. W. Savage, *English Language, English Literature, History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; M. J. Sharpe, *English Language, History, Mathematics*; B. J. Shelton, *English Language, Chemistry*; R. A. Shore, *History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry*; A. Shuter, *English Language, English Literature, Biology*; G. M. Smith, *English Language, French, History, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology*; J. E. Smith, *English Language*; B. A. Sutor, *Mathematics*; J. M. Waring, *English Language, Latin, French, History, Biology, Domestic Subjects*; I. Watton, *English Language*; H. A. Young, *English Language, History, Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry, Domestic Subjects*.

NOTES FROM THE FORMS**The Sixth**

As, this term, the ranks of the Sixth have been reduced to thirteen, several fifth form prefects have been appointed to complete the numbers. Owing to this influx of fifth form prefects, the sixth form room has been thrown open as a prefects' common room under the firm control of the new Head Boy and Head Girl—Warburton and Barbara Druller.

The opening days of term were marked by the presence of the ex-Head Boy, Hadwen, in the official rank of "acting member of staff," who had to "dabble with Chemistry" in the absence of Mr. Thornton.

If one walks past the Sixth in the dinner hour, the ping-pong of a table-tennis ball and the voice of John Snagge reading the news is very obvious, the "Art Room wireless" having been procured for sixth form use and permission obtained for playing table-tennis.

The playground outside now looks so tidy that a "piece of bus ticket" is spotted immediately when dropped. This state of affairs was brought about by a mid-term paper scare, when a five-day week was imposed on all the prefects.

The only time this tidiness is not obvious, on the boys' side at least, is after school, because the bus lines have been ousted out of the corridor to avoid congestion.

The rush of juniors and seniors up the stairs at dinner-time would at first be startling to a newcomer. But this is really due to the fact that the library has been re-stocked and reinforced by some excellent County Library books. This rush has meant that nearly all the prefects are librarians, either entering or stamping books.

By far the most exciting event this term was the Election. The excitement and tension in the preceding week, while election posters appeared on the notice board, could literally be felt. On Election Day this reached fever pitch and on the 26th the tension broke. The Sixth formers rolled up, almost asleep, through listening half the night to the results. Much indignation was felt when the Masters stole "our" wireless, but we were rescued by one of the far-seeing girls who stumbled in with a portable. This was later placed in the Music Room, so that "free" prefects could report on progress. At dinner time Sixth formers were packed like sardines in the little room. A score-board was placed on the bell-table and the results were "posted" every quarter hour, for eager juniors to read. When the parties were level the wireless failed and even a "warm up in the drying room" failed to bring results. A hasty "run round" found the money for a new battery, but alas all the shops were shut; so it was with ears glued to the set that the results were noted. By far the most heart-stirring incident of this eventful day was the roar that went up when the one-fifteen result was posted. And, so, tired but happy, the Sixth retired home that evening.

The Annual Sixth Form Party is to be held this Christmas and the collection, under the supervision of the head boy, is in full swing, and a happy gathering is anticipated.

J. A. W. SAVAGE.

V a

Although several of our former members, including some of our hockey-players, have been transferred to V_B, our number remains practically the same with the addition of seven of the younger members of last year's Fifth.

Unfortunately, owing to this transfer, we now have only two hockey players good enough to play in the School teams, but six of the boys are in the football 1st XI.

So far this term our form-room has been utterly devoid of decoration in the way of flowers, but it is hoped that this state of affairs will change with the advent of spring.

Form VA has been without form captains this term, but not without the following Prefects:—Ann Palmer, Gillian Holmes, Betty Walton, Kathleen Highman, Audrey Shuter, Wesson, Blake and Bolt i.

Most of us have realised that we must work hard if we are to give a creditable performance in The Exam. next year, but we still enjoy a bit of fun now and again. For example, a certain “strong-woman” upturned her desk during a Maths. lesson and spilt several of the contents, thus causing much amusement. And who decorated Old Stoney Bloke with a dilapidated dish-cloth and turned the form-room door labels upside down? I wonder!

KATHLEEN HIGHMAN.

V b

The boy Form Captain is Davies ii with Maureen Peach representing the girls. Watton and Margaret Woodfield are acting as Games Captains, this term.

This year the form has increased in number owing to the addition of seven new members. We are very honoured to have in our form two male prefects, Davies ii and Feast; although they take their duties very seriously, we have not yet suffered under their slave-driving. We have two prominent members of the Photographic Society, Davies ii as Chairman and Mortimore as Secretary. There are six girls representing the school in the hockey teams and four boys in the football team. We also have in our midst the budding actor and President of the Dramatic Society.

Since this form-room has ceased to be occupied by the late IVA the electric clock has refused to function. All our electricians-to-be have “had a go.” Do you think it is having its revenge on us?

In June, 1950, one of our destructive members murdered a wasp on a window and we are still mourning because the corpse has not yet been removed. Where are our window cleaners?

The life in this form has so far been uneventful. No doubt the majority of pupils are settling down to the hard year’s work ahead of us, but I suppose it is rather early to decide with Christmas approaching.

WENDY LOVELL.

IV a

Form Captains are Keyte and Mavis Bennett, and Games Captains, Miller and Kathleen Norton.

We occupy the French room and so have to move very frequently for our lessons. A French library has been set up in our form-room for third, fourth and fifth years.

On October 17th the whole form went to see a production of “The Tempest” at Stratford-upon-Avon Memorial Theatre.

The Geography pupils of the form are to visit Cadbury's factory at Bournville on November 26th.

One day this term a mouse was found in Rosemary Skinner's desk, and a great work of art was written about it.

Miller took the first form for games when Mr. Ames was absent, and let the "B's" win for the first time.

Kathleen Norton is captain of the school netball team and Susan Salmons, Sally Merris, Sylvia Devey, Sheila George, Sheila Winspear, and Pat Palmer have also played. Sheila George, Mavis Bennett and Sylvia Devey have played for the hockey 1st XI. Aspinwall has played once for the football 1st XI and has now been demoted to linesman.

Gillett and Shakles have left us regretfully to join IVB. Eileen Lewis has emigrated to Australia. Kathleen Norton has joined us from IVB and we have two new pupils—Hartley i and Ann Dearden.

G. KEYTE.

IV b

We have lost Kathleen Norton this term, as she has gone up into the A form. In exchange we have had two boys from that form. Two others of our number—June Kerry and Pamela Rook—have left.

We are making a great effort to keep our form room neat and tidy, and Dorothy Hancox and Mary Thompson offered to tidy the room up at the end of the afternoon. We are very grateful for their help. We started off this term with quite a lot of flowers—so many that there were not enough vases, but I am sorry to say this is not being kept up now.

On Wednesday, 24th October, Miss Webley and Mr. Bell took us to Stratford Theatre to see a performance of "The Tempest," which, I think, we all enjoyed very much. On coming out of the theatre, the three "tops" of the form missed the rest of the party. After waiting for five minutes they turned up. This made us five minutes late coming back to Alcester. All those who had to go on the Birmingham bus missed it. We did not want to stay in school, as we had to wait one hour, and so we walked to Coughton and got on the next bus there.

About the greatest excitement of the term was when our form mistress discovered a case belonging to —— in her desk. How did it get there? It was always being found in strange places.

The games captains this term are—for the boys, Shakles, and Rosina Dyer and Kay Fielding for the girls.

HILARY WILKES and DOROTHY HANCOX.

III a

This year we find ourselves removed from the verandah to the main building. Though we have the same number as last year, our form room is noticeably smaller and tends to become stuffy, even after our expert window-opener, Bretherton, has thrown open all the windows. Perhaps this stuffy atmosphere accounts for the nodding heads of certain boys who sit in the back desks.

The form captains are Ann Swinglehurst and Lancaster. The games captains are Jane Rawbone and Allen, with Ann Lidgey and Careless as games vice-captains.

We have played IIIB at both hockey and netball, the results being 2—2 and 10—10.

We are sorry to say that a fine old landmark of our form room has disappeared. The Staff chair, which has been creaking and groaning for some time and had to be treated with great care, has finally broken. Now that that stately old veteran has been carried away, the Staff peer relentlessly at us over the edge of the desk in a quite alarming manner from a low chair.

We still have the reputation of being the noisiest form in the school. We realised this early in the term, when we were given a severe punishment.

A member of the form has discovered that the Romans were worried about their mothers' wives when they were fighting.

BERYL POPE, VALERIE BASELEY, ANN SWINGLEHURST.

III b

This year our form room is the domestic science room, and Mrs. Rodda is our form mistress. The form captains are Hilary Smith and Baylis, and the games captains are Gillian Maycock and Whittaker.

The boys have played four games of football this term, and unfortunately they have lost all four. The girls have played the "A" form at hockey and netball, the scores being 2—2 and 10—10 respectively.

One day at the beginning of the term an apple appeared on the shelf in our form-room. We have all looked longingly upon it day after day until now it has fallen into a state of decay.

The only excitement we have had this term was when a mouse jumped out of a desk in a French lesson. At the sight of it a certain boy jumped on his desk, lifted his imaginary skirt and uttered a delicate scream.

We are hoping for better weather for our games lessons in the future.

CATHERINE BRAZIER.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

It is with considerable pleasure that I am able to report our Group to be greatly increased by a very active membership in the First Forms who entered the school in September. A very warm welcome to these regular savers. Long may they remain with us.

The Summer Term was not an exciting term from the savings point of view, and the total savings for the six months ending September 30th, 1951, were only £38 6s. 9d. In contrast, we have, in six weeks this term, a total of £10 17s.

May I stress once again that we are still in position as a Group to back-date for a whole year the certificates purchased through us, and this means that we are virtually giving 3d. with each one. The stamps, with which these 15s. Certificates are purchased, still cost 6d. and 2s. 6d. We provide a book in which to save them.

Please note that these stamps need not be used to purchase Certificates. The total saved in stamps can just as easily be entered directly into a Post Office Savings Bank Book, where it will gain 6d. each year for every pound invested.

You may also use your School Group to save for members of your family if you wish, and we are always glad to cater for those of you saving for an immediate objective. The VI Form, for example, have always used our group to save for their Christmas party, and we shall be very glad to help any of you to save for your holidays, a new bicycle, or even family birthday presents that are often so difficult to keep secret! Stamps saved for these purposes will be exchanged for cash at any Post Office whenever you wish.

After such a promising commencement to this School Year I hope we shall see even more regular savers every Friday. In the meantime, a Merry Christmas to you all, and may 1952 prove a Happy AND PROSPEROUS New Year for our Group.

MISS YOUNG (Hon. Sec.).

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

President—Feast. *Treasurer—Blake.*
Social Secretary—Fogg. *Secretary—Savage.*

At the end of the Summer Term the Dramatic Society gave an afternoon's entertainment to the Middle School. This opened with a play reading, "Admiral Peters," a salty comedy which proved very amusing and put everyone in a good humour. An excellent puppet show was then put on by Miss Lavery's pupils telling the story of Hansel and Gretel. The Dramatic Society then entertained us by spontaneous storytelling in rival teams, and at the conclusion of this the audience was invited to form a guest team to tell a story by picking objects from a box and speaking for one minute on each. The whole afternoon was rounded off by a Mrs. Feather comedy sketch with Mary Rawbone in the leading role, and Blake making an excellent garage hand.

The first meeting this term was spent electing officials. Since then, apart from the second week, when various items were attempted, the time has been given over to the rehearsing of the school play. Three weeks were taken reading the play to the Society, and since then the time has been spent perfecting the words and actions. The play, "Devonshire Cream," by Eden Phillpotts, is being produced by our Staff organiser, Miss Young, at the Youth Hut, Alcester, on the 6th, 7th and 8th of December. We shall give a full account of this in the next issue.

J. A. W. SAVAGE.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

We have had a very successful term and although the club is small, our members have been keen and enthusiastic.

A real effort is being made to finish the enlarger and we have had some very interesting lectures.

At the beginning of term, Davies was elected as chairman, Mortimore as secretary and S. Hall as treasurer.

MORTIMORE (Hon. Sec.).

CERCLE FRANCAIS

Président: Mr. E. Davison.

Vice-Président: P. Elmore.

Secrétaire: B. Druller.

Comité:

Warburton, Bolt i, P. Aspinwall, A. Palmer, J. Kempster.

Ce trimestre nous avons eu des réunions intéressantes. La première semaine Mme. McAlister nous a invités à prendre le thé avec elle.

Nous avons deux équipes et chaque semaine nous avons des concours, concours de noms de films ou de chansons, par exemple.

Nous avons lu des scènes de 'Tout ce qui brille n'est pas d'or,' pièce très amusante.

Nous attendons maintenant l'arrivée des publications françaises. Mlle A. Palmer a apporté des publications belges que nous avons regardées avec intérêt.

BARBARA DRULLER.

MUSIC SOCIETY

As there are not many in the Music Society this term, we have been able to do more individual work.

We regret that Perryman, who has played for our society for the past year, has left.

Mr. R. Oliver, Senior Music Master, Turves Green Secondary Modern School, Birmingham, kindly came down just before half term and recorded our voices with a tape-recorder. He hopes to be able to come down again and make some disc recordings for the society.

In spite of there being only nine of us, we are hoping to hold a concert in the near future.

JOY BUSBY (Hon. Sec.).

AERO-MODELLING SOCIETY

There are twenty-one members this term, working mostly in pairs, each pair constructing one model. Several models are nearing completion and two or three made more or less successful trial flights over the Hockey Field. Hasty repairs were later made in the Physics Lab., the Society's Headquarters.

A prize is offered for the best model, not necessarily for the best flyer, but for the best constructed model. The prize will be awarded at Christmas, and consists of a 6s. 6d. model sailplane, the "Southern Sloper," wing span 36 inches. It is hoped that this will provide an incentive to the members to construct neater models.

P. M. GOWERS.

SCOUTS

This term we have lost a few of our older members, but a large number from the junior school have joined us.

Subscriptions are now paid weekly to Patrol Leaders, instead of our paying for the term.

We have concentrated mainly on preparing the younger members for their tenderfoot tests, which a number have passed. Some of the older scouts have been practising semaphore for the second class. A number of games have been played in the school grounds with semaphore and identification of trees and plants. A weekly magazine, "The Scout," is still being taken, and circulates among the troop during the week.

W. TREVOR.

FOOTBALL, 1951

Captain: Buckley

Vice-Captain: Wesson.

Secretary: Savage.

This year several changes have had to be made in last year's unbeaten eleven. Practices were held at the beginning of the term and an eleven was formed.

The match against Chipping Campden was lost, but the team played good football. We won the match against St. Philips fairly easily, but at Bromsgrove the home team, being more experienced, won by three goals to one. We had a close game against Redditch, and once again a more experienced eleven won.

Just lately adverse weather conditions had caused the cancellation of two matches.

In the matches played to date, the forwards have lacked shooting power, several opportunities being missed. In general the standard of play of the defence has been fairly good, but there still tend to be lapses.

The following have represented the school in the first eleven:— Wesson, Savage, Fogg, Malin, Goodman, Davies i, Lane ii, Lane i, Peace i, Peace ii, Wright, Careless, Aspinwall and Buckley.

The second eleven has comprised Cleeton, Careless, Aspinwall, Allen, Peace i, Bolt ii, Bates, Shelton, Weaver, Dyke i and Shakles.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st XI v Chipping Campden G.S. (away) lost, 1—4.

v St. Philip's G.S. 2nd XI (away) won, 8—2.

v Bromsgrove C.H.S. (away) lost, 1—3.

v Redditch C.H.S. (away) lost, 1—2.

v Evesham P.H.G.S. (home) lost, 0—6.

v Hanley Castle G.S. (home) drawn, 2—2.

v Worcester T.S. (home) won, 3—2.

v Hanley Castle G.S. (away) lost, 0—4.

A.G.S. 2nd XI v Evesham P.H.G.S. 2nd XI (home) lost, 2—5.

C.E.B.

HOCKEY

Captain: P. Aspinwall.

Secretary: B. Druller.

Vice-Captain: D. Palmer.

Practices were held after school on Thursday evenings until half-term, when, however, it became dark too early for them to be continued. At

these practices members of both teams and of lower forms were very enthusiastic.

We have played two matches against other schools and have also attended a Hockey Rally at Leamington Spa. We were successful in both our fixtures and won four out of five matches at the Rally. This was the first time that we had attended the Rally, and although the weather was very bad we had some very good games. We beat Solihull G.S., and Saltley G.S., but lost to K.E.G.S., Handsworth. Although the score against George Dixon S.S., and Erdington G.S., was 0—0, we won on corners.

The second eleven has only had one match, but we hope that they will have more later in the term. We are also hoping that the weather will be better and we shall not have to cancel so many matches.

The first eleven has been represented by: B. Druller, S. George, B. Phillips, P. Tipping, P. Aspinwall, B. Clarke, S. Devey, M. Woodfield, D. Palmer, W. Lovell, M. Bennett, M. Salmons.

The second eleven has been represented by: P. Elmore, C. Brazier, M. Bunting, S. Taylor, S. Winspear, K. Richards, R. Highman, A. Edwards, P. O'Nions, S. Salmons, M. Salmons.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st XI v Chipping Campden G.S. (away) won, 3—0.

1st XI at Leamington Hockey Rally won 4, lost 1.

1st XI v Evesham P.H.G.S. (away) won, 2—1.

A.G.S. 2nd XI v Evesham P.H.G.S. 2nd XI (away) won, 5—1.

P.A.

NETBALL

Captain: K. Norton.

Vice-Captain: D. Mortimore.

This term we have been practising keenly and there has been a definite improvement in the teams.

Our first match against Chipping Campden was played with vigour, and we succeeded in defeating them in a hard-fought game. In our second match, both teams lost to Hugh Clopton, who proved too fast for us. The next game was against Studley College. The Second VII succeeded in winning their match, but the First VII only managed to force a draw.

There is much enthusiasm amongst the second team and there are many promising players.

We are looking forward to the match at home against Chipping Campden before the end of the term and hope to achieve a satisfactory result.

The School has been represented by:—First VII: M. Salmons, S. Merris, S. Salmons, D. Palmer, K. Norton, S. Winspear, S. George. Second VII: P. Tipping, M. Taylor, G. Maycock, S. Devey, P. Palmer, B. Clark, D. Mortimore, M. Allen, Y. Beasley, J. Rawbone.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st VII v Hugh Clopton S.M.S. (home) lost, 15—22.

1st VII v Studley College (home) drew, 17—17.

A.G.S. 2nd VII v Hugh Clopton S.M.S. (home) lost, 9—20.

2nd VII v Studley College (home) won, 16—11.

A.G.S. 'A' VII v Chipping Campden G.S. (away) won, 18—15.

K.N.

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